

English Evangelism

Miss. Baptists team up with FIEC to reach Great Britain

Tony Martin
Associate Editor

Mississippi Baptists are partnering with the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC) in Great Britain. Michael Stringer, retired pastor of Oadby Evangelical Free Church in Leicestershire and a volunteer with the FIEC, visited the state during the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Stringer was the first pastor of the church, founded in 1975, a position he held until his retirement at the end of August 2007. Using the 2012 Olympics in London as an opportunity for evangelism, 24 Mississippi teams joined 23 of the FIEC churches each for one week from May to August.

"The FIEC began in England in 1922 as a response to the ecumenical movement," said Stringer. "Independent churches from all over the country were isolated from each other. There was a need for a network or fellowship of churches. The FIEC is not a denomination. It is deliberately biblical and evangelical. It holds to the basics of the faith based on the old confessions."

The FIEC includes several Baptist churches among its 50+ member churches. Stringer is frank in his assessment of the state of evangelicals in Great Britain.

"Less than 2% of the population of England is evangelical Christian," he said. "75% believe in god - but which god? The United States is about 20 years behind the U.K." As an example, the former Carey Chapel in Leicestershire is now a Jain temple, Jainism being an ancient Indian religion. Stringer also noted that, at its present state of growth, Birmingham, England, will have a Muslim majority in just a few years.

In spite of these sobering statistics, Stringer is very upbeat about the ministry of Mississippi Baptists to date, and encouraged about ministry opportunities to come.

"The wonderfully servant-hearted team members came to



GREETINGS FROM OUR BRITISH FRIENDS — Michael Stringer (left), former pastor of Oadby Evangelical Free Church in Leicestershire, England, and a volunteer with the FIEC, is introduced to attendees by David Michel, associate executive director, Mission Strategy Division, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, at the Acts 1:8 dinner at First Church, Jackson, Oct. 29. (Photo by Tony Martin)

help the churches in a whole variety of Gospel activities - community projects, open-air witnessing, BBQs and 'Fun Days', visiting schools for assemblies, class lessons and teaching American sports, helping with coffee mornings, mum and toddler groups, and home groups! One small team was even taken for a night's street pastoring," Stringer stated.

Future plans include outreach in Scotland in 2013. "That expansion is looking positive and strong," Stringer continued. "More English churches are asking for help. In addition, we have what is called the Commonwealth Games in Scotland in 2014. This is for countries that years ago were part of the old British Empire. When the Empire collapsed, these countries joined together in what is called the Commonwealth. So there are 70 countries of the Commonwealth that are gathering in Glasgow for these games, sort of like a mini-Olympics. We want to expand the work in Scotland to encourage witness during these games just as we did during the Olympics."

These activities fall under the FIEC project known as TEAMWORK. "We're very excited to partner with you here in Mis-

issippi," Stringer said. "Our churches are thrilled by what you have done. Pray for our progress. England is a mission field. Even when you add up all the religions, less than 10% of the people in England are involved in any religious activity. Since the 1950's, we've seen a steady moral, spiritual and social decline. Be aware of our needs - Mississippi team members who have served did not realize that England had gotten in such bad shape."

Stringer noted that there was a movement afoot in Great Britain to accommodate homosexual marriage. He observed how this same issue was being dealt with in the United States, with states recognizing same-sex unions. "Massachusetts was the scene of one of the great revivals of the 18th century with Jonathan Edwards," Stringer said, "and you've just elected your first lesbian senator."

Churches interested in hosting a team to Great Britain in 2013, or looking for more information, can reach Stringer via email at mike102cr@gmail.com. "We must try to reach into our communities," Stringer said. "We've been in our holy huddles too long, and we have awakened to the fact that we have to avoid this."

New Congress will see an increased number of Southern Baptists

WASHINGTON (BP and local reports) — Southern Baptist representation in the U.S. Congress increased in the latest elections and will be the highest number in recent history, including three Baptists returned to office by Mississippi voters.

Each Southern Baptist up for re-election in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives held his seat in the Nov. 6 elections across the country. In addition, five members of Southern Baptist churches won races as non-incumbents.

In the Senate, incumbent Republican Roger Wicker was elected to a second term. He is a member of First Church, Tupelo. Mississippi's other senator, Republican Thad Cochran, a member of Northminster Church, Jackson, was not up for reelection.

In the House, Mississippi voters returned Republican Alan Nunnelee, a member of Calvary Church, Tupelo, to the First District seat, and Republican Gregg Harper, a member of Crossgates Church, Brandon, to the Third District seat. Second District Democrat Bennie Thompson, a United Methodist, won reelection, as did Fourth District Republican Steven Palazzo, who is Catholic.

Five newly-elected Southern Baptists will join the House in January, bringing the total to 35. One Southern Baptist church member gained election to the Senate, bringing the total in that body to six.

The number of Southern Baptist national legislators appears to be a record, based on a review of election results since 1994 when a surge of Southern Baptist and other evangelical Christian candidates for Congress began. Baptist Press has learned the following members of Southern Baptist churches will be freshmen in the new congressional session that begins in January, but there may be others yet to be reported:

■ In the Senate, Ted Cruz, a Republican and a member of Second Church, Houston, Texas, will represent that state. He defeated Democrat Paul Sadler by about 57-40%. Cruz served from 2003-08 as Texas' solicitor general, the state's chief lawyer before federal courts.



WICKER

■ In the House, Doug Collins, a Republican and a member of Lakewood Church, Lakewood, Ga., defeated Democrat Jody Cooley by a 76-24% margin in Georgia's Ninth Congressional District. Collins serves as a chaplain in the United States Air Force Reserves.



NUNNELEE

■ George Holding, a Republican and a member of Christ Church, Raleigh, N.C., defeated Democrat Charles Malone by 57-43% in North Carolina's 13th Congressional District. Holding is a former U.S. Attorney.



HARPER

■ Jim Bridenstine, a

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From the editor

WILLIAM PERKINS

Is everything permissible?

In today's America, it often seems as if there is nothing left that can shock us. From the nascent movement to legalize marriage between people and their pets, to the goals of the North American Man Boy Love Association that cannot be printed in a family newspaper, we've slipped a long way down the proverbial slope toward complete nihilism.

The Bible talks about times when wrong is accepted as right and people do as they please without regard for God and His commandments for righteous living. We are living in such a time. History records the fate of civilizations that believed they could drink, gamble, fornicate, and abort as much as they pleased and never suffer any ill effects from such misconduct, and America seems determined to repeat the insanity.

Most of us have apparently become inured to the misconduct that surrounds us. We Christians, of all people, have averted our eyes and learned to live with perversity while pledging fealty to our Lord and Savior's Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20). While we lead such double lives, things are only going to get worse.

Witness Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington. According to a report by Todd Starnes on FoxNews.com, a 45-year-old male student at the public college declared himself to be transgendered and changed his name to "Colleen" to reflect his new identity as a female. He promptly began using the women's locker rooms at the school and on several occasions has exposed his male private parts in those locker rooms.

One locker room Colleen frequents is used by female students from nearby Olympia High School and a local swimming club for young girls. According to Starnes (a former associate editor at Baptist Press, by the way), Colleen has not been shy about exposing himself to those minor children.

Not only that, Colleen's presence in the locker rooms allows him to watch girls as young as first grade change into their swimsuits. "They're uncomfortable with him being in there, her,

being in there and are shocked by it," a local parent, Kristi Holterman, told KIRO-TV.

A female swim coach discovered Colleen sprawled out in a sauna in the female locker room, exposing himself to all who walked by, and demanded that he leave.

Perhaps you're wondering at this point about the reaction of the college's administration and local law enforcement authorities to this outrage. Well, it seems both groups have taken a hands-off approach and even defended Colleen's "right" as a transgendered individual to parade around nude in the locker rooms.

Parents of the minor children report they have been told by the college that the school's anti-discrimination policy leaves the school powerless to stop Colleen. The local district attorney has also refused to take any action. Even the swim coach who discovered him in the sauna apologized when she found out he was transgender.

This is not 1959 Alabama. We don't call police for drinking from the wrong water fountain," Colleen boasted to KIRO-TV.

"Little girls should not be exposed to naked men, period. Clearly, allowing a person who is biologically a man to undress and expose himself to young girls places those girls at risk for emotional distress and harm," said David Hacker, senior legal counsel at Alliance Defending Freedom, a Scottsdale, Az., organization of 2,200 allied attorneys nationwide that is working with concerned parents on this case.

We are a sick nation, incapable even of placing the well-being of our children above the "right" of a mixed-up individual to engage in behaviors that may cause those children great harm. Considering Jesus' expressed attitude toward children (Matt. 18:6, Matt. 19:14), we had better act before the coming of the crushing punishment we so richly deserve.

Christians — Baptists, specifically, and Mississippi Baptists, even more specifically — could be an unstoppable force for good if only we would get together and get to work. It's not too late.

It's time we found our voice. Any later, and it will be too late.

Lessons learned on Nov. 6

It's a tricky thing to engage in political analysis before the dust has fully settled on a recent election. There is no doubt pollsters, pundits, and politicians from both sides of the aisle will be examining it in the coming weeks and months.

Republican strategists will perform a post-mortem on the Romney campaign and the Senate seats that slipped away. Most will wonder about the failure of Republicans to seize the advantage during a sluggish economy.

Despite the risks of weighing in too early, I thought it would be worth pointing out a few things the evangelical church could learn from the losses of the Republican Party this year. Let me be clear at the outset that I am not equating the two. A political party only has life as long as people find it valuable. The church is guaranteed a future because of Christ's promise as Master Builder.

Still, there are a number of lessons that evangelicals can learn from failed strategies in the political arena. Here are a few I jotted down while watching the election returns:

■ We cannot afford to ignore changing demographics. Much of the chatter on election night centered on the increasing racial and ethnic diversity in a number of states traditionally viewed as safe for Republicans. The story was similar in Colorado, Florida, and Ohio.

The days when the male white voter dominated elections are over, which explains why Romney was able to maintain a substantial lead among white men and still lose the election. When your target is a shrinking number of people and your strategy is to keep them on board by alienating the rising urban ethnic groups (let's say, by failing to come up with a sensible immigration plan), it's no wonder you lose elections.

Surveying the crowd at Romney's headquarters, I saw a sea of white. Obama's gathering was a microcosm of the diverse country in which we live. How does this translate to the church? Simple. If you are seeking to be a missionary presence in your community, you can't ignore demographics.

For example, if your church is an upper-class, predominantly white



Guest opinion
with Trevor Wax

congregation in a city that is no longer upper-class or predominantly white, then you've got a problem and unfortunately, this problem exists all over the country.

When the community changes colors, churches tend to go into auto-pilot mode with the silent expectation that outsiders should conform to the church's culture. In the end, we don't model the coming Kingdom or the current community. We develop a fortress mentality where a way of life is maintained instead of a missional mentality where missionary strategies are employed — strategies that actively seek to reflect the diversity in the community by reaching the lost outside their doors.

■ We can't ignore facts that make us uncomfortable. It was interesting to watch how many conservative pundits and politicians were convinced, up to the end, that Romney would win. The talking heads on television were divided down partisan lines, with Republicans predicting Romney would either squeak by or win big, and Democrats assuring everyone that Obama would survive. The polls were analyzed, reinterpreted, and refashioned in order to give hope to both campaigns.

Churches sometimes can make the same mistake. We see incremental growth here and there, so we choose to look at the results that encourage us. We avoid the truth that may confront us and make us uncomfortable. To maintain a positive vibe in the congregation, we celebrate small victories and overestimate their importance while at the same time ignoring reality when it presses us

see WAX on p. 6

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Pro-life, pro-family hopes dashed across nation on Nov. 6

WASHINGTON (BP) — A status quo election on Nov. 6 has left conservative evangelicals and other social conservatives with little optimism they will see pro-life and pro-family advances by the federal government in the next two years.

The Democrats' retention of the White House and U.S. Senate, as well as the Republicans' continued majority in the U.S. House of Representatives, appears to do more than set the stage for likely, continued gridlock until at least the 2014 congressional elections. It also seems to place the burden on the House GOP to stop even further intrusions on the sanctity of human life and other socially conservative positions.

"Next year poses significant challenges to progress on many of our greatest concerns," said Barrett Duke, vice president for public policy of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC) in Nashville. "Efforts to protect the unborn and to defend marriage will be much more difficult, but we will look for every opportunity to do so."

Carrie Gordon Earll of CitizenLink, an advocacy affiliate of Focus on the Family, said the GOP's House majority "will offer somewhat of a firewall to protect life, marriage, and religious freedom." She acknowledged in a CitizenLink news article, however, the Democrats' control of the Senate and Obama's executive

orders "will be harder to limit, even by a strong House."

In the Nov. 6 elections, Senate Democrats increased their slim majority slightly, while House Republicans saw their majority diminish — although it is uncertain by how much at this point.

The Senate's new alignment will be: 53 Democrats, 45 Republicans, and two independents, CNN reported. One of the independents will caucus with Democrats and the other independent, newly elected Angus King of Maine, is expected to do so as well.

Previously, Senate Democrats had a 51-47 edge, with two independents.

In the House, Republicans led Democrats in seats 233-194, with eight races still undecided, according to CNN.

Repealing the 2010 health-care reform law, dubbed Obamacare by both supporters and opponents, appears to be out of the question. Speaker of the House John Boehner, R-Ohio, hinted repeal seems an unlikely pursuit, telling ABC-TV after the election, "Obamacare is the law of the land."

While their hopes appear dashed in Congress, evangelicals, Roman Catholics, and other religious freedom advocates are battling the Obama administration's abortion/contraception mandate in the courts. The mandate, a federal rule in support of the health-care law, requires all health insurance plans to cover con-

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Barrett Duke, vice president for public policy of the Southern Baptist Convention's Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission

traceptives, even ones that can cause abortions, and has a religious exemption that covers churches but not most religious organizations.

Pro-life members of Congress will continue their efforts to protect amendments in yearly spending bills that prevent funding of abortions, but they will again be unable to overturn anything President Obama does by executive order to underwrite abortion providers and promoters.

Tom McClusky, vice president of Family Research Council Action, offered best-case and worst-case scenarios when asked by Baptist Press.

"The best case scenario is that the president understands that half the country didn't vote for him, and there was a reason for that and a very valid reason... that there

needs to be more reaching across the aisle," he said, "and at the same time hopefully the Republicans understand that they need to be more bold."

Conservatives are now where liberals were after the 2004 election, McClusky said. Republicans should "look more to their core" like Democrats did eight years ago, he told BP.

"The worst case scenario is that Republicans don't follow that model and the Republicans start abandoning some of the core principles that are why they still have a majority in the House," McClusky said. "The people elected a divided government, and in a sense that's what the Republicans should give them and tackle the issues that are most important to the American people."

Efforts on some issues "should see more movement," the ERLC's Duke said.

The "growing consensus" of the need to reform immigration law is one of those, Duke said. "We will advocate that to be just toward everyone affected, immigration reform must include such aspects as border security, workplace enforcement and paths to legal status with appropriate restitution."

The ERLC also will be engaged on Iran's threat to become nuclear-armed, intrusions on religious liberty overseas and in this country, and reducing federal debt and the deficit, among other economic challenges, he said.

Most importantly, he said, the ERLC plans to "represent the Lord and Southern Baptists in a way that honors and glorifies the Lord, respects the dignity of everyone we work with and advances the great Gospel mission."

The election broke some barriers in both houses:

■ The number of female senators in the 100-member chamber reached 20 for the first time.

■ Tammy Baldwin, a Wisconsin Democrat currently serving in the House, became the first open homosexual elected to the Senate.

■ Rep. Mazie Hirono, a Hawaii Democrat, became the first Asian American female and first Buddhist member of the Senate, according to Religion News Service (RNS).

■ Tulsi Gabbard, another Hawaii Democrat, won election to Hirono's seat to become the first Hindu in the House, RNS reported.

The current members of Congress reconvened Nov. 13 for a lame-duck session before the new year. The focus will be on the "fiscal cliff," as it is known. If Congress does not act by Jan. 1, about seven trillion dollars in tax increases will ensue as the tax cuts implemented under President George W. Bush expire.

In addition, sequestration — automatic cuts to defense and non-defense spending of \$55 billion each — will go into effect.

Washington State voters latest to approve same sex marriage

SEATTLE (BP) — Washington state became the ninth state to legalize same sex marriage Thursday (Nov. 9) when a race that was tight on Election Night finally was called, but the head of a traditional group there says he doesn't believe it's a turning point for the issue nationwide.

Referendum 74, as it was known, won with 52.6% - 47.4% of the vote, which was much tighter than most polls predicted but nevertheless disappointing for traditionalists in the state. The new law will take effect Dec. 6.

In what was a historic Election Day for homosexual activists, voters in Maine and Maryland also legalized same sex marriage by margins similar to Washington's.

"While we are disappointed, we are not defeated," Joseph Backholm, chairman of the traditional group Preserve Marriage Washington, said in a statement. "We are fighting for a cause that is true, and beautiful, and right — the sacred institution of marriage. It's a cause worth fighting for, and we

will continue to educate citizens and policymakers on the timeless truth that real marriage is the union of one man and one woman."

"We knew this was not going to be an easy fight. Washington is a deep blue state and one of the most secular states in the country. Washington has a very high percentage of voters who never attend church, and polling showed that 80 percent of unchurched voters approved of Referendum 74."

Supporters of same sex marriage had a huge financial advantage and outspent opponents by \$10 million, Backholm said. Additionally, he said, statewide media was a cheerleader for Referendum 74, with The Seattle Times not just endorsing it but spending money on ads urging citizens to vote for it. It was an unprecedented move by the newspaper.

Backholm also rejected the argument — as some pundits have promoted — that Election Day marked a turning point for gay marriage legalization nationwide.

"It's not a turning point to win on your home turf," he said. "The election results reflect the political and funding advantages our opponents enjoyed in this very liberal and secular state. The results show only that in a deep blue state, with a huge financial advantage, gay marriage activists can win — barely."

"Further, the results indicate that a significant percentage of Washington voters are troubled by redefining marriage. Washingtonians know that women and men are not interchangeable — that children need both a mother and a father — and this election does not represent a sea change in their understanding of that reality."

TV ads sponsored by Protect Marriage Washington warned that legalization would lead to same sex marriage being taught as normative in schools, as has happened in Massachusetts. Ads also said it would lead to threats, lawsuits and even the firing of people who support the traditional definition of marriage.

The ads gave an example for each charge: 1) the bullying of Chick-fil-A after its president supported the biblical definition of marriage and it was told by several politicians it wasn't welcome in their cities, 2) the firing of Damian Goddard, a Canadian sports anchor who was axed after announcing his opposition to same sex marriage and 3) the legal case involving a husband and wife who own a Vermont bed and breakfast and were sued after a lesbian couple was denied usage of the property for a wedding reception.

Passage of same sex marriage in the three states — as well as defeat of a marriage amendment in Minnesota — came six months after North Carolina voters approved, by a margin of 61% - 39%, a constitutional amendment defining marriage as between one man and one woman. That amendment went even further than the one defeated in Minnesota by also prohibiting New Jersey-style civil unions. Thirty states define marriage within their constitutions as being between a man and a woman.

It was a beautiful fall Saturday morning and my priority was to be on the soccer field just after sunrise to watch one of my grandkids' soccer team in action. Now this is soccer for third grade boys and the competition is intense. For the guys on the field it is more than a game, and for the less athletic parents on the sideline, it is just about more than life. I am sure the day will come when OSHA will not allow games to be played unless there is cardiac equipment nearby to resuscitate some of the dads and a few of the moms.

On this particular Saturday morning I survived the first game, and we won. The second game of the morning was a fresh team that had given them fits earlier in the season and now they were meeting again. At the end of the competition our team had lost three to two. Now that may sound like no big deal but it was the first game my grandson could ever remember losing. He was born with a competitive spirit that was nurtured by his athletic involvement and until the third grade he had never experienced a loss. You can imagine that this was not a happy day.

After slapping hands with the competition and congratulating them on their win, he came walking off of the field with his head held low and tears on his cheeks. I told him what a great competitive game he had played, that he ought to hold his head up high and look to the next game. Stopping and talking to him I said, "How many games have you won over the years?" He responded in a low voice, "Thousands!" I said, "Well, let's make the next game the beginning of the new streak of thousands of more wins." He kind of shook his head like no, you don't get it. I certainly got it that he was hurting because his team had lost and he was terribly disappointed, but I also got it that life in its totality is not easy. At best, there will always be some losses, and learning to deal with



Winning and Losing

them is not only important but it is vital to living with life's certainties and uncertainties. That is the nature of so many competitive sports. There has to be a winner and a loser. In some sports they even have to play until somebody wins or loses in overtime.

When you stop and think about it in the realm of following Christ, you can find a variety of participants. For instance, sometimes there are just winners and winners. I say this because at times, when you do the right thing and then have victory, it is in fact winners and winners. Through the years I have watched as people do the right thing sometimes, but with a completely wrong attitude and un-Christlike spirit. In those cases, you can win and still not be a winner. In fact, if the truth be known, you really feel bad about the way you did it. But when you do the right thing with the right attitude and the right spirit toward other people who may be involved and it comes out right, you truly are a winner.

Then there are times that people put themselves in a situation of losing and losing. You see this quite often too when you watch people who cut

corners or even cross the line and break the law. Or they may stay in bounds and have a rotten attitude, but lo and behold they still lose anyway and that, my friends, is losing and losing. Sadly, that happens more frequently than any of us would want to admit. Some of you may remember some years ago when the Boston Marathon was won by a woman who had actually gotten on board public transportation, rode several miles, and then got off and finished the race, and it appeared as though she was a winner in every way. Yet, it did not look right. It did not appear to be proper, and so the investigation began and revealed that she had started the race, cheated, and ended the race as a winner when, in fact, she was in the category of losing and losing.

Sadly, that is where every one of us goes when we decide to ignore God's plan and purpose for our lives and choose our own way — a way contrary to Him to live in disobedience, sin, and rebellion. We can argue, as we may want, that we know best. It is my life and I can live it the way I choose. We can add to that all of the other kinds of clichés that young people and

adults come up with, but it will still be the road to losing and losing.

Finally, there is a category that really is important, though sometimes we do not think about it this way. It is when we are losing and winning. It is not an unusual thing to see people who are seemingly losing that are deeply involved in the game of life, playing by the rules, seeking to do the right thing with their fellowman and especially with God, and yet all of the time they seem to be on the losing side. The breaks do not come their way, the showers of blessing seem to never come over them, and they seem to move from sorrow to sorrow. Life is tough and they seem to be losing. It is not unlike Jesus when He was on the cross and it appeared as though the whole world, even the powerful Roman government, had turned totally against Him. Behind the scene, the religious leaders had instigated what had taken place. The Roman soldiers put Him on a cross and the crowds came by and jeered at Him. Clearly, He is losing, and before the day is over He will die and be buried. He lost, and it seemed like to Him and to all mankind everything was lost. But three days later the tomb that had been sealed and guarded burst open, and the living Lord Jesus walked out free, unbound, and unhindered — a winner.

It may appear that as you are trying to do the right thing, the good thing, the God thing, and the Christ honoring thing, that again and again the score is not on your side. You appear to be losing. You may have even thought about legally changing your name to Job or Mrs. Job. Remember that God is on His throne and doing right is always right. Ultimately, always, and confidently the Lord brings us to victory and losing becomes winning.

The author can be contacted at jfutral@mcbcb.org.

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Matthew 10:27 NAS

November 15, 2012

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What is the Sult Project? For over 48 years Mississippi Baptists have enjoyed sending new suits to pastors in new work areas. Many of these pastors have no suit nor have the extra money to purchase one. By sending them a suit we are letting the pastors know that we care about them and that we support their work.

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2013 STATE

Senior ADULT RALLY

THURSDAY, AUGUST 29, 2013

RIDGECREST BAPTIST CHURCH, MADISON
(601-853-1090, Ext. 35)

8:30 A.M. REGISTRATION/REFRESHMENTS
(\$1 AT THE DOOR)

9:00 A.M. RALLY

BROADWAY-ON-THE-DRIVEWAY
PRESENTS

"Swing of Love"

10:00 A.M. BREAK

10:45 A.M. BREAK-OUTS

1. "FUN TIME WITH TONY MARTIN" - MBCB
2. "HISTORY IN HYMNS" - IRINE MARTIN, HARPERVILLE
3. LEADERSHIP: HOW TO LEAD, TEACH, AND MOTIVATE SENIORS TODAY - GARY MAYHELD, CLINTON

11:45 A.M. ADJOURN

RN Spring fling

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February 2, 2013
Garaywa Camp &
Conference Center, Clinton, Miss.

Don't miss an opportunity to join nurses from all over the state as we worship, fellowship and share ways to serve Christ. For more information contact, Denise Windom, denise@hellsouth.net or Deborah Bolian.

9th Annual SENIOR EVANGELISM RALLY

Tuesday, January 29, 2013
First Baptist Church, Richland
(601) 939-1715

- 8:00 a.m. Registration/Refreshments
8:15 a.m. Early Bird Special "Putting Wlt Back into Witnessing"
Led by Judy Marby, ventriloquist from Destin, Fla.
8:45 a.m. General Assembly
9:00 a.m. Break-Outs
1. **Good for Goodness Sake** - Exploring Seven Values that lead to authentic character. Discover that true goodness is what people are looking for. Led by Eileen Mitchell, Senior Adult consultant for Alabama Baptist Convention
 2. **A Senior that God can Use** - Applying the Word in an older person's life to be a witness. Led by Sonny Atkins, Mendenhall, retired State Evangelism director
 3. **Your Prayer Closet** - Evaluating your prayer life. Led by Kevin Meader, Decatur, director of Prayer Closet Ministries
 4. **Putting Wlt Back into Witnessing** - Led by Judy Marby
- 10:00 a.m. Break
10:30 a.m. Worship Celebration Rally
Music: Allen Harris, Music Evangelist, Oxford
Piano: Irene Martin, Harpersville
Preacher: Sammy Gilbreath, Evangelism director, Alabama Baptist Convention
- 11:45 a.m. Adjourn



MONDAY, APRIL 29

**Hardy Street Baptist Church,
Hattiesburg**

**Two services: 10:00 a.m. and
2:00 p.m.**

Mass Senior Adult Choir

Preacher: Fred Wolfe, Mobile, Ala.

**Special Guest: Andrew Ishee,
Laurel**

**Music Director: Slater Murphy,
MBCB**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Glenn Shows, gshows@mbcb.org
Daniel Hall, dhall@mbcb.org
Ken Hopkins, khopkins@hardysbc.net
(601-544-1794)

BE THE ONE

Speakers: Gary Permenter & Bryant Bush

Music: Bethany Barr-Phillips

Special Appearance: Tino Wallenda

December 27-28, 2012
Mississippi College, Clinton

Registration begins Thursday
Dec. 27, 1:30 p.m.
Concludes Friday Dec. 28
12:30 p.m.

If you have any questions about YEC 2012, please contact us at
601-292-3278 or 1-800-748-1651, ext. 278. E-mail jellis@mbcb.org.

Pray this day for...

November 16 – December 6, 2012

"The Lord is good, a stronghold in a day of distress; He cares for those who take refuge in Him."

Nahum 1:7

Pray for: **Tony* and Denita* Inmon**, missionaries to American Peoples in Uruguay through church planting, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Floyd* and Sharon Johnston**, IMB missionaries ministering to American Peoples in Brazil through church planting, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Millard and Susan* Jones**, missionaries ministering to East Asian and European Peoples in Canada through student evangelism.

Pray for: **Jo*in* and Melinda* Kyzar**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples in the Czech Republic through "personalization," church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Henry* and Linda Lee**, missionaries ministering to East Asian Peoples in the U.S. through church planting, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Daniel and Claudia* Hood**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in Kenya through church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Don* and Valery Hulsey**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Portugal through church planting, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Timothy* and Rebecca* Lightsey**, missionaries ministering to American Peoples in the U.S. through strategy coordination, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Asbury and Jeannie* Martin**, missionaries to American Peoples in Argentina through church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Robert* and Janice Mooney**, IMB missionaries to European Peoples in Latvia through strategy, coordination, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Odessa Theological Seminary** in Ukraine, for new academic program, financial stability, and missionaries being sent out to difficult to reach places.

Pray for: **Stephen* and Svetlana* Parish**, IMB missionaries ministering to European Peoples in the U.S. through strategy coordination and church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Kevin* and Brenda Peacock**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Canada through theological education and church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **John and Sarah* Perkins**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples in France through mission support and church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Michael and Sarah* Prewitt**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Portugal through church planting, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **John* and Amy Purl**, missionaries to European Peoples in Bulgaria through volunteer coordination, community and home outreach.

Pray for: **Tracy and Eugenia* Putnam**, missionaries to European Peoples in Russia through theological education, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Michael* and Annette* Racey**, missionaries to American Peoples in the U.S. through church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Mike and Linda* Ray**, missionaries ministering to European Peoples in Ukraine through strategy coordination, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Steven* and Nickolee* Roberts**, missionaries ministering to Sub-Saharan African Peoples in the U.S. through church planting, church/home outreach and evangelism.

Pray for: **Marty* and Mary* Roberts**, missionary ministering to European Peoples in the U.S. through strategy coordination, church/home outreach and evangelism.

*These International Mission Board missionaries claim Mississippi as their home state. The IMB missionaries listed in the HouseTops prayer calendar are currently active in 2-4 year terms or in career service.

1/3/96

MISS KATELYN R. BROWN
Parents: Donald & Donna
European Peoples

1/4/12

MR. TITUS D.
Parents: K & C
Restricted

1/4/11

MR. WYATT
Parents: L & L
Restricted

1/5/93

MISS MELEAH D. PEACOCK
Parents: Kevin & Brenda
European Peoples

1/8/92

MR. STEVEN D. ALEXANDER
Parents: Mark & Karen
American Peoples

1/14/08

MR. MAX
Parents: J & S
Restricted

1/13/05

MR. ISAAC BEAMAN
Parents: Brad & Lenora
Last Frontier

1/19/12

MR. TATE
Parents: L & L
Restricted

1/21/97

MR. CALEB E. HOLYFIELD
Parents: Michael & Patricia
European Peoples

1/27/00

MISS AIMEE YEAGER
Parents: Tommy & Jennifer
Last Frontier

MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS



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FOR SECURITY, cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: Child's name, Parent's name, MBCB WMU MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205.

PLEASE NOTE: Church members may send a package of cards together; cards do not have to be sent individually to the WMU. Individual cards do not need postage stamps when sent as a package to MS WMU.

Please include your return address on each card envelope. MKs and their parents may wish to send you an update or note of appreciation.

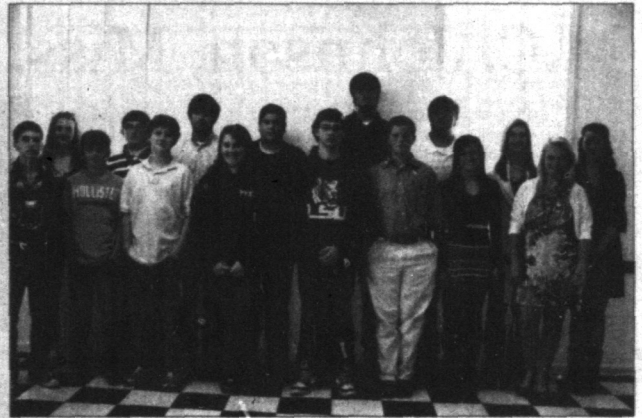
HOUSE TOPS

Just for the Record



CLARKSDALE CHURCH, CLARKSDALE, ordained Greg Hood to the gospel ministry Nov. 4. Shown are former pastor Ed Lawrence, Hood, and pastor Don Dunavant.

Nine of the youth from **NESHOBA CHURCH, UNION,** participated in Crossover in New Orleans prior to the Southern Baptist Convention, helping with a block party in Slidell, La. for a new church plant. Shown are members of the youth group.



NEW HOPE CHURCH, WALNUT GROVE, ordained James Thomas as deacon Sept. 30. Shown are pastor Michael Harper, Thomas, his wife Renae, Reggie Hillman, and pastor Shane McGivney.



CONEHATTA CHURCH, CONEHATTA, held a baby dedication service Oct. 16. Shown are Mr. and Mrs. Trey Sistrunk and baby Layla. Jimmy Jones, pastor.



TRINITY CHURCH, PETAL, recently ordained Jimmie Walters as deacon. Shown are Neil Williams, Woody Williamson, Walters, Jimmy Long, B.H. Herrington, and interim pastor Jimmie Garrard in front.

THE GAS OF TILLATOBA CHURCH, TILLATOBA, gave canned goods to the local food pantry for World Hunger during October. Shown are the participants.



RIVERPORT CHURCH, GREENVILLE, hosted a WMU meeting featuring Melanie Lawler, missionary in Nevada. The Riverport WMU ladies, GAs, and guest visitors from Glendale Church were present. Neal Cordell, pastor.



FIRST CHURCH, WINONA, ordained Dustin Long, minister of students and children, to the gospel ministry Oct. 28. Shown are Long, daughter Caden, and wife Tasha.

OBITUARY

M.C. Johnson, Miss. missions leader, dies Nov. 1

M. C. Johnson, 85, longtime missions director for North Delta Association in Clarksdale, died Nov. 1 in Texas. He was born Sept. 6, 1927, at Grant, La., to Leo Johnson and Gertrude Lanair Johnson. He finished high school at Marion School in Lake Charles, La., graduated from Dallas Bible College in 1954, did graduate work at Jacksonville State University (Al.) Gadsden campus, and attended New Orleans Seminary.

He was pastor of churches for 28 years in Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, and Iowa, and

planted two churches in Maryland before becoming missions director for North Delta Association. He was honored by the National Directors of Missions Conference, and the Mississippi Directors of Missions Conference for 35 years of service, and by North Delta Association for 26 years of service before retiring in September 2011.

While at North Delta Association, Johnson led in the growth of a large Ministry Center that has assisted over 5,000 families by providing clothing, food, furniture, weatherization, and counseling services.



JOHNSON

A Crisis Pregnancy Center was also founded that currently ministers to some 40 women each month.

Johnson also traveled extensively to many foreign countries for mission work. He made five trips to Argentina helping in revivals, training pastors, assisting in church growth, and introducing the first Crisis Pregnancy Center there. He also traveled to Spain, Indonesia, Mexico, Ukraine, Canada, Moldova, Bangladesh, India, and Philippines.

Johnson served many years as president of the Coahoma County (Ms.) Literacy Council, on the board of Habitat for Humanity, and as a member of the Exchange Club.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Helen, who worked alongside him in ministry; daughter Sharon of Garland Texas; son Anthony of Clarksdale; and six grandsons.

Funeral service was held Nov. 3 at Palestine Church, Grant, La., with interment in the church cemetery under the direction of Rush Funeral Home in Oakdale, La. Andrew Johnson and Troy Doyle officiated. A celebration of his life was held Nov. 5 at Oakhurst Church in Clarksdale, where he was a member for more than 20 years.

WAX

cont. from p.2

to reevaluate our methods or ideas.

A good leader will paint a picture of reality, however disconcerting it may be. It's only when we see where we truly are that we get motivated with a sense of urgency to complete the tasks God has given us.

Political campaigns remind us of the Kingdom whose foundation cannot be shaken. Wins and losses in the political realm each have their lessons. When your preferred candidate wins, it's easy to pin great hopes on their campaign, to overlook flaws and excuse wrong be-

havior. When your preferred candidate loses, it's tempting to wonder if political involvement really matters.

The Christian gets the opportunity every election season to keep things in perspective. Through wins, we temper our expectations regarding the change that any one man can affect, no mat-

ter how promising. Through losses, we continue to maintain a faithful presence in obedience to the King who is not up for reelection.

So, why get involved in politics anyway? Because elections matter. Ideas have consequences. We are called to live justly and humbly for the glory of God and the

good of our neighbors. The changing tides of political and public opinion remind us of the steadfast, unmovable Kingdom to which we belong.

We engage, not because it's popular or because we absolutely must win, but because we are God's Kingdom people, living on earth as citizens of heaven.

Wax is managing editor of *The Gospel Project*, a curriculum line for all ages developed by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville. This column first appeared at TrevinWax.com, a Gospel Coalition blog, and appears here courtesy of Baptist Press.

MS POSITIONS

WEST LAUREL BAPTIST CHURCH, LAUREL, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A FULL-TIME PASTOR. Send resumes to: Pastor Search Committee West Laurel Baptist Church 1400 West 5th Street Laurel, MS 39440

OSYKA BAPTIST CHURCH, OSYKA, MS IS ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR A FULL TIME PASTOR. Please mail resumes to Osyka Baptist Church, P. O. Box 152, Osyka, MS 39657. Attention: Pastor Search Committee.

WEBSTER COUNTY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION CURRENTLY HAS AN OPENING FOR ASSOCIATIONAL MISSIONS DIRECTOR. Please send resumes to Rev. Wade Stevens, PO Box 260, Mathiston, MS 39752, or email mathistonfbcp@bellsouth.net.

PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MS, IS SEEKING A PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC. Please e-mail resumes to PGBC@telepak.net or mail them to Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, 2162 Old Hwy 84 W, Brookhaven, MS 39601.

GASTON BAPTIST CHURCH, BOONEVILLE IS SEEKING A FULL-TIME ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF MUSIC AND EDUCATION. Resumes can be sent by email to office@gastonbaptistchurch.com or by mail to Gaston Baptist Church in care of Staff Search Committee, 1908 Gaston Road, Booneville, MS 38829. Job description available.

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BARD GQMJPZW AY DBQ GBRFGB RZDA

WAL YAF BPK.

MDGJ DEQINQ: YPNQ

Clue: Q = E

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Romans Four: Twenty

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Living with Troublemakers • 2 Peter 2:1-22, Jude 1-25

This lesson might better be titled "God's Pending Judgment of Troublemakers." All Christians have misunderstandings from time to time. Some conflict even helps us see sides of an issue we had not seen before. In today's text, Peter and Jude address a problem far worse than minor misunderstandings. They warn us that there will be "false teachers" (troublemakers) in our churches. This study will help Christians identify, inform, and insulate against the influence of troublemakers.

1. IDENTIFYING TROUBLEMAKERS

"But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies... Many will follow their shameful ways and will bring the way of truth into disrepute... Bold and arrogant... these men blaspheme in matters they do not understand" (2 Pet. 2:1-2, 10-12, NIV).

"...they are godless men, who change the grace of our God into a license for immorality and deny Jesus Christ our only Sovereign and Lord... In the very same way, these dreamers pollute their own bodies, reject authority and slander celestial beings... These men are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm... grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they

boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage... These are the men who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit" (Jude 4, 8, 12, 16, 19, NIV).

False teachers in the church identify themselves by consistently expressing an unredeemed, sinful nature. We don't have to judge if they are saved or lost. The Bible says that church members whose lives are identified by the qualities in this text prove that they have made false professions of faith.

They really need a saving, life-changing relationship with God through the Lord Jesus Christ. That is what Jude means when he says they "...follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit" (v. 19). Anyone who does not have the Holy Spirit living on the inside and giving direction to his life does not have biblical "salvation."

2. INFORMING TROUBLEMAKERS

"Their condemnation has long been hanging over them, and their

destruction has not been sleeping. For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell, putting them into gloomy dungeons to be held for judgment; if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly... the Lord knows how to rescue godly men from trials and to hold the unrighteous for the day of judgment, while continuing their punishment. This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the sinful nature and despise authority." (2 Peter 2:3-10, NIV)

Troublemakers in the church need to understand how God really sees them. They need to realize that they are deceived if they think they are saved and going to heaven. These verses should serve as a wake-up call for troublemakers to repent

and truly receive Christ as LORD and Savior before it's too late. The Bible says, "Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life" (Gal 6:7-9, NIV).

3. INSULATING AGAINST TROUBLEMAKERS

"...contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints... build yourselves up in your most holy faith... pray in the Holy Spirit... Keep yourselves in God's love... wait for the mercy of our Lord... Be merciful to those who doubt. Snatch others from the fire and save them... to others show mercy, mixed with fear (v. 3, 20-22, NIV).

Jude instructs true believers in how to defend against troublemakers. We must stand up in the church for the true faith that was handed down by the Lord and the apostles or it may be lost forever. We have to keep growing in our faith and praying for God's intervention. We have to stay in fellowship with the Lord daily and resolve to be faithful until Jesus comes. We need to help those hurt by troublemakers, keep evangelizing the lost, and be cautious with sinners to avoid falling into temptation ourselves.

Bishop is a member of Harrisburg Church, Tupelo.

Engage in Kingdom Building • Acts 13:1-4; 14:21-28

Want to focus your talents, energies, resources on building the kingdom of God? Jesus shows us how to make disciples.

Acts 13:1-4 — Upon the Jews' refusal of the gospel, now the Gentiles receive their share of the offer. A base of operations of the Gentile church was established in Antioch. A message came to the church to ordain Saul and Barnabas to a new work of missions. After fasting and praying, the church officials laid hands and sent them off to a ministry of spreading this good news gospel to the Gentiles in other nations. The church acted in an orderly fashion, being careful to choose those who had been called to the task. The Holy Spirit calls and the church confirms. Their ministry operated under the authority of the church.

Kingdom building forces you outside the church building, and for some churches, and some church folks, this is a paradigm shift. God called Barnabas and Saul to the mission field, to trek off to change the Gentile heathens. Ministering to the Lord must be the openly stated business of the church and its preachers and teachers. In Acts 9:15 Saul was particularly told he was to bear the name of Christ to the Gentiles. In Acts 22:21 he must be sent to the Gentiles, as that was his divine purpose, but no more so for him than for us. Peter, James and John were directed among those of circumcision,

but here Paul and Barnabas are to go to the heathens.

Paul and Barnabas were qualified in some great measure and distinguished from others as being capable of teaching in a particular ministry. 2nd Tim 2:2 says "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses ENTRUST TO RELIABLE MEN (emphasis mine) who will also be qualified to teach others." (NIV Study Bible). Church members in general should make themselves available for evangelistic programs. Reading, studying, and teaching God's word strengthens your desire to participate. Evangelism and discipleship are inseparable.

The word disciple first brings to mind followers of Jesus, but others had their disciples too (John the Baptist and even Moses). It basically means learner or pupil, whose task is to study, learn, and pass along knowledge (and/or traditions) of the

master, be an active encourager, and, yes, cast out demons and heal the sick. Jesus gathered a special unique circle of 12 disciples (possibly symbolic of the 12 tribes) from his many followers. Acts' use of the term "disciple" widens the definition to all those who believe in the risen Lord, and our modern day semantics allows the application of the word to be a virtual equivalent to "Christian."

A disciple is available for whatever God wants, and gives thanks for the blessings.

Acts 14:23-28

— Paul and Barnabas revisited the churches which they had planted and offered confirmation, and then returned to Antioch and reported their deeds. They had ordained elders in every church. They had their appointees who were to pray with the members and take on oversight of the church affairs, instruct the unlearned, warn the unruly and mockers, comfort and convince gainsayers. They were set apart for this noble work of

the ministry. If your church has such chosen ones, then be grateful, be thankful, be a disciple and be willing to edify the body of Christ.

Paul and Barnabas went out to other places, teaching and preaching, and again, recognizing a responsibility to their home church, returned to Antioch, which required much courage since they had enemies plotting against them. V 22 tells us what they did on this return visit. They rehearsed for them all that God had done with and by them. They had made church leaders responsible and then allowed them to lead. They had been encouraging. God can do without ministers, but ministers cannot do without God's grace. God had opened wide the door to the Gentile world, and had set the table for the gospel to spread. I believe we are told that God can open doors that no man can shut. Rejoice.

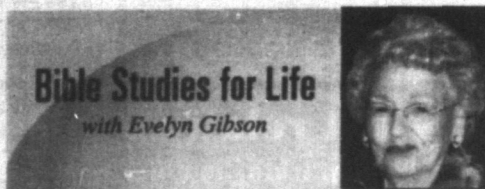
Secure good leaders for your church, be kind to them, lift them through prayer to the Lord's great care and love. Herschel Hobbs offers this question on this lesson: What kind of church would my church be if every church member was just like me? All churches need strengthening, and challenging. Disciples can do that.

Gibson is a member of Monticello Church, Monticello.



Explore the Bible

with David B. Bishop



Bible Studies for Life

with Evelyn Gibson

CONGRESS

cont. from p. 1

Republican and a member of South Tulsa Church, Tulsa, Ok., defeated Democrat John Olson

by a 63-33% margin in Oklahoma's First Congressional District. Bridenstine is a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy Reserves.

■ Randy Weber, a Republican and member of First

Church, Pearland, Texas, replaced Ron Paul by defeating Nick Lampson by 53-45% in Texas' 14th Congressional District.

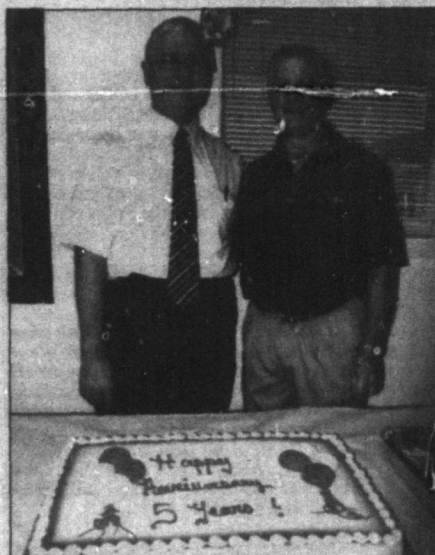
■ Steve Stockman, a Republican, will return to Congress

after several terms out of the House. Stockman, a member of First Church, Houston, Texas, defeated Democrat Max Martin by 71-26%. Stockman gained election to the House in 1994, defeating 42-year veteran Con-

gressman Jack Brooks. He lost to Lampson, however, in 1996.

A complete list of Southern Baptists serving in Congress can be found at <http://sbc Baptist Press.org/BPnews.asp?ID=39129>.

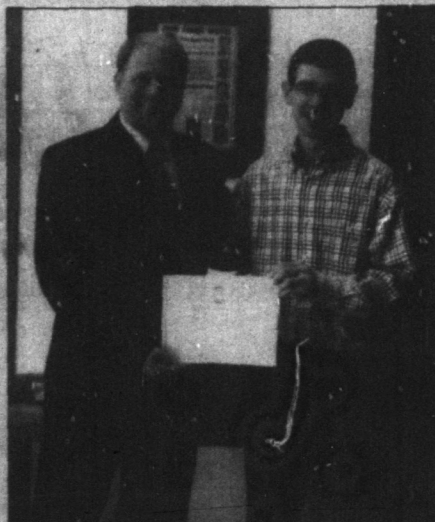
Just for the Record



CRESTVIEW CHURCH, PETAL, celebrated the 5th anniversary of Rick Hamm as minister of music in March. Shown are pastor Stephen Smith and Hamm.



CORNERVILLE CHURCH, UNION COUNTY, honored Joe Epting and his wife Christine with a reception upon his retirement Aug. 26. He served the church for 12 years and retired from a ministry spanning 52 years.



UNION CHURCH, PEARL RIVER ASSOCIATION, ordained Andrew Sanders as deacon. Shown are pastor Brian Tatum and Sanders.

In other Church News:

► John Coleman, pastor of Athens Church, Mendenhall, was presented with a card and a monetary gift in appreciation of 31 years of service as pastor.

► The Neshoba Baptist Association is hosting the event, Embracing HOPE Together With Christ: The Only True Grief Recovery Process Nov. 30. Jamie Walters, speaker; Tim & Andrea Moore and Kellie Baysinger, music; free hope bag and seasonal snacks offered. Registration appreciated but not required; call (601) 656-1820. Suggested donation of a new toy or canned good.

► Eastside Church, Pearl, held its annual Trunk or Treat event with 327 registered.

► Gary Ray, pastor and church planter with NAMB, has developed a resource to help encourage, support, and inspire church planters and those who help the smaller church. Visit www.HelpsForTheChurch.com website for a library of 800+ ministry helps.

► County Line Church, Ovett, will host the annual Thanksgiving fellowship Nov. 20, 6 pm. Area churches have been involved in this event for several years, taking turns hosting. Each church will perform music. Henry Freeman, Fellowship Church, speaker. Fellowship following.

Revivals & Homecomings

Fairview Church, Indianola: 139th homecoming, Nov. 18; services, 10:30 a.m., followed by covered dish lunch. David Carlton, speaker.

First Church, Nettleton: Homecoming, Nov. 18, 10:30 a.m.; Donald Pounders, pastor and speaker; sanctuary choir and vocalists, music.



First Church, Holly Springs, celebrated its 175th anniversary Oct. 21. Earl Kelly had the opening prayer; Thad Moore delivered the message; Donnie Stewart shared the offertory prayer; and Curtis Ferrell blessed the meal. Shown are former pastors Stewart, Moore, Kelly, and Ferrell.

Submission Guidelines

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either e-mail, CD or DVD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39206-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

Truth is not relative.

Find it in the One who is the way, truth, and life.

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. I have sinned.

2. I want forgiveness for my sin and freedom from eternal death. I repent.

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.

(I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life.

From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship

with Him. I receive Christ as my Savior, and Lord.

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name. (John 1:12)

It is our prayer that you, Christ, will contact a local Southern Baptist Church for spiritual guidance.